

Message Text

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ACTION AID-05

INFO OCT-01 AF-04 ISO-00 IGA-01 SP-02 L-02 SS-15 NSC-05

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FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1887

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, ET, US

SUBJECT: ETHIOPIA RECOVERY AND REHABILITATION PROGRAM APPROVAL

REF: A) ADDIS 13310; B) ADDIS 13101; C) STATE 225269;

D) ADDIS 12477; E) ADDIS 12231

1. IN ABSENCE OF AID/W APPROVAL OF ETHIOPIA R/R PROGRAM, I AM RELUCTANTLY COMPELLED TO POINT OUT THAT CONCERN NOTED REF (E) HAS LONG SINCE MOVED OUT OF SIMPLE EMBARRASSMENT STAGE AND IS VERY LIKELY TO SHORTLY REPRESENT A MAJOR AREA OF CONTENTION BETWEEN GOE AND USG IN ETHIOPIA.

2. AS AID/W AWARE, GOE HAS LONG KNOWN THAT ASSISTANCE FUNDS FOR THIS PURPOSE HAVE BEEN APPROVED BY CONGRESS SINCE JUNE THIS YEAR. THIS INFORMATION, COUPLED WITH LATE SUMMER OPTIMISM FOR EARLY IMPLEMENTATION IN LINE WITH ETHIOPIAN DROUGHT RECOVERY AND REHABILITATION NEEDS, PRODUCED CLIMATE OF HEIGHTENED EXPECTATIONS. THOSE EXPECTATIONS HAVE BEEN INCREASINGLY DEMPANED, UNFORTUNATELY, AND COINCIDENTALLY WITH A PARTICULARLY SENSITIVE PERIOD. WHILE GOE HAS UNDERSTOOD THAT SOME DELAY UNAVOIDABLE DUE TO ORDINARY BUREAUCRATIC TECHNICALITIES AND HAS GONE ALONG WITH THIS (TRUE) EXPLANATION, USAID DISCUSSIONS ALONG THAT LINE NOW STAND TO MEET WITH OUTRIGHT DISBELIEF.

3. IN ADDITION TO REASONS CITED ABOVE, I WISH TO POINT

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OUT THAT MANY INFLUENTIAL ETHIOPIANS ARE CONVINCED THAT THE

USG IS DELAYING ITS APPOINTMENT OF AN AMBASSADOR AND IS
WITHHOLDING ADDITIONAL DROUGHT RELIEF AND ECONOMIC AID
BECAUSE IT DOES NOT LIKE THE PRESENT ETHIOPIAN GOVERNMENT.
THE RELEASE OF R&R FUNDS WOULD NOT ONLY ENABLE US TO GET
STARTED ON KEY PROJECTS IN TIME TO MAKE SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS
BEFORE THE NEXT RAINY SEASON BUT WOULD ALSO HELP GREATLY
TO DISPEL THESE SUSPICIONS.

4. I URGE THAT EVERY EFFORT BE MADE TO COMPLETE PROCESSING
AND RELEASE OF AT LEAST THE FIRST TRANCHE OF THESE FUNDS (IN
AMOUNT OF \$5,000,000) ASAP.

WYMAN

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